

Forecast available at fingertips

By SSgt. Steve Ball
Public affairs

To help people plan their days and weekends, the 48th Weather Flight now provides weather forecasts on a telephone recording.

The weather hotline (Ext. 6222), which began Feb. 1, is updated every six hours and provides current conditions and forecasts for the upcoming 24 to 36 hours.

"We know the weather is constantly changing and it's especially so in England," said Capt. Rob Fleishauer, 48th Weather Flight commander. "We initiated the weather hotline to give people an idea of what to expect and help them plan."

The recording provides information about cloud cover, wind direction and speed, precipitation, possibilities of fog and high and low temperatures.

"Predicting weather is never an exact

science," said Fleishauer. "But our forecasts are generally pretty accurate for at least 24 hours."

One driving factor for implementing the weather hotline was a recent unit self assessment, according to the captain.

"We found that we were meeting the needs of all our operations customers through briefings and reports but we had no way of providing information to the rest of the community," he said. "The hotline does exactly that."

One community organization that needed quick access to weather reports was the education center.

"If there's fog or other bad weather rolling in late in the day there's a possibility that we may have to cancel classes," said Dr. Clinton Noid, education services officer. "The weather hotline can help us get a head start."

To reach the weather hotline from off base call (01638) 526222.

Local News

One-way traffic on York Road

York Road is one way from the troop support parking lot to the Brandon Gate roundabout beginning today. All traffic in the section will move toward the roundabout. This is on a trial basis to minimize traffic in that area. The change may become permanent, depending on the results. For more information, call Ext. 2424.

Lakenheath squadron nominated for AFA award

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – U.S. Air Forces in Europe leaders have nominated the 494th Fighter Squadron from RAF Lakenheath, for the Air Force Association's David C. Schilling Award.

USAFE officials said the people assigned to the squadron distinguished themselves by providing combat air power while supporting seven real-world contingencies over the past year.

According to award criteria, the Schilling Award recognizes the most significant contribution to national defense in the field of manned flight. The 494th FS will now represent USAFE at the Air Force-level competition.

Lakenheath to represent USAFE in competition

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – U.S. Air Forces in Europe leaders have nominated the 48th Fighter Wing to represent the command in the Air Force Association's Verne Orr Award competition.

The AFA established the award in honor of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr to recognize the Air Force unit, active or reserve, that makes the most effective use of its human resource. The 48th FW now competes against other major command nominees, and the AFA will present the award during an upcoming convention.

Field cooking

SSgt. Kelly White, 48th Services Squadron, demonstrates how to light a burner for the Hennessy Award inspectors Feb. 7. Services treated the inspectors to a field-conditions breakfast complete with ground-burst simulators and a ride in a HUMVEE. The Hennessy Award is presented to the Air Forces top dining facility each year. RAF Lakenheath represents USAFE in the competition.

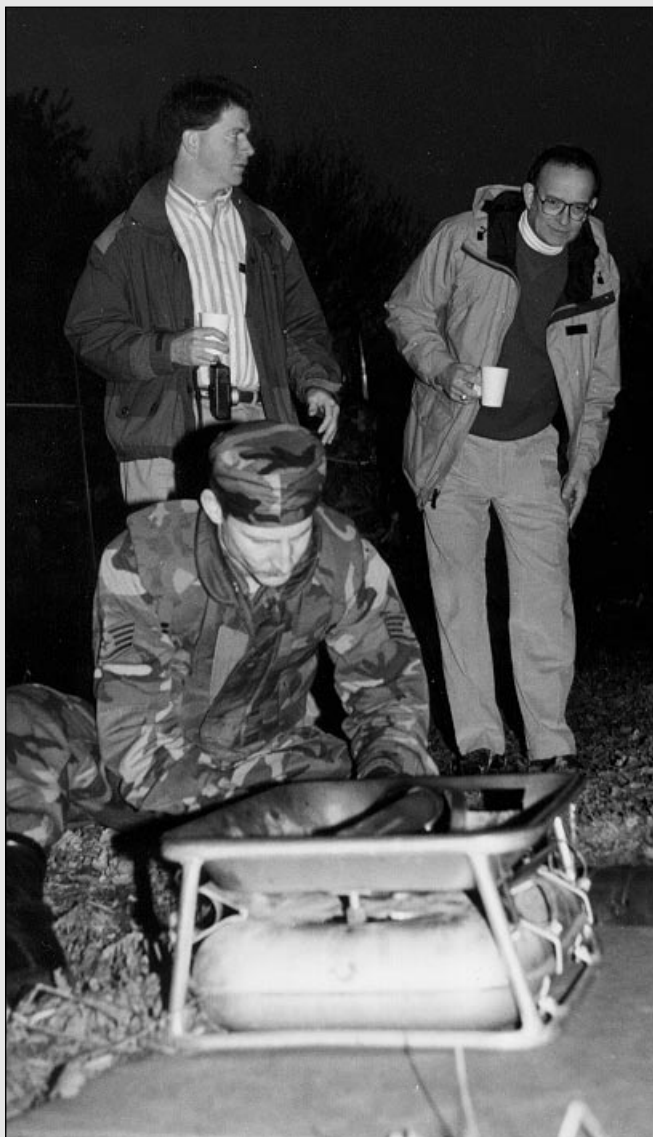


Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

On the cover

Photo by SrA. Sarah Franco

For Valentine's Day messages to members of the Liberty Wing family, see pages 12 - 13. The 48th Fighter Wing public affairs office wishes everyone a happy Valentine's Day.